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United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/151 and 70/146. It describes the outcome of the forty-third session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, in particular the expert workshop on redress and rehabilitation of child and adolescent victims of torture and the intergenerational transmission of trauma.

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I. Introduction

A. Submission of the report

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with the arrangements approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151, by which it established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. It presents the outcome of the forty-third session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, held in Geneva from 4 to 8 April 2016. The present report complements the report on the activities of the Fund submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session (A/HRC/31/23), in March 2016.

B. Mandate of the Fund

2. The Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals. In accordance with its mandate and the practice established by its Board of Trustees, the Fund provides grants to established channels of assistance, including non-governmental organizations, associations of victims and members of their families, private and public hospitals, legal clinics, public interest law firms and individual lawyers, that submit projects involving medical, psychological, social, financial, legal, humanitarian and other forms of direct assistance to victims of torture and members of their families.

C. Administration of the Fund and Board of Trustees

3. The Secretary-General administers the Fund through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five members acting in their personal capacity and appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard for equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. The Board is currently composed of Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça (Portugal), Morad el-Shazly (Egypt), Anastasia Pinto (India), Mikolaj Pietrzak (Poland) and Gaby Oré Aguilar (Peru).

II. Forty-third session of the Board of Trustees

4. The forty-third session of the Board was held in Geneva from 4 to 8 April 2016 and was chaired by Gaby Oré Aguilar. At the session, the discussions held focused on two main areas, notably the functioning of the Fund and knowledge-sharing in the field of redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture.

A. Functioning of the Fund

5. As part of its efforts to improve the impact and the quality of the Fund's operations, at the session the Board identified a number of measures to operationalize the Fund's new policy set forth in 2014. In particular, the Board adopted recommendations to (i) clarify the Fund's regular grant-making procedure for projects providing direct assistance to victims; (ii) fully operationalize its

inter-sessional emergency granting procedure; and (iii) define its new capacity-building granting procedure expected to be launched in 2017.

6. With regard to its regular grant-making procedure, the Board recommended to further streamline, through a competitive review of project proposals, the volume of grants for direct assistance to the aspirational target of 150 annual regular grants of an average of $50,000 by 2019. To that end, the Fund will give priority to project proposals addressing thematic areas identified by the Board in the context of annual calls for applications.

7. In addition, the Fund will set aside annually 10 per cent of the net resources available for grant-making to supply its inter-sessional emergency procedure aimed to respond rapidly to assistance requests resulting from human rights and/or humanitarian crises around the world.

8. Finally, the Board underlined the need for the Fund to promote the development of know-how in regions of the world that are more isolated and less resourceful. It thus agreed that, as of 2017, the Fund will dedicate 2.5 per cent of its net resources annually for capacity-building initiatives aimed to strengthen the professional development and/or the organizational capacity of applicant organizations, in particular through the transfer of knowledge and expertise from centres already supported by the Fund to new initiatives.

B. Knowledge-sharing

Expert workshop on redress and rehabilitation of child and adolescent victims of torture and the intergenerational transmission of trauma

9. On 6 and 7 April, the Board of Trustees convened a two-day expert workshop of expert practitioners on redress and rehabilitation of child and adolescent victims of torture and the intergenerational transmission of trauma in Geneva (see annex).

10. The workshop brought together 17 professionals from various backgrounds (medical, psychological, social and legal) from rehabilitation centres financially supported by the Fund. Alessio Bruni, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee against Torture, Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Martin Babu Mwesigwa, member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Suzanne Jabbour, Vice-Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Nicolette Moodie, Human Rights Specialist at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pieter Ventevogel, Senior Mental Health Officer at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Secretary-General of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and Carolina Barbara, Coordinator of the Child Rights Programme at the World Organisation Against Torture also participated in the workshop.

11. The workshop was part of the Fund's annual series of expert discussions, initiated in 2014 as part of the Fund's new mission statement with the aim of collecting and disseminating expertise and best practices on redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture. The workshop enabled an informed discussion on the particular ways in which torture affects children and adolescents and the main challenges in relation to redress and rehabilitation of child victims. The workshop also focused on prevention strategies of the intergenerational transmission of trauma.

12. The workshop was organized around three panel discussions and is summarized in a stand-alone report available on the Fund's website (www.ohchr.org/torturefund). The main findings of the workshop were as follows:

(a) The torture of children and adolescents is a cruel reality, which appears to be on the increase. Despite the strong United Nations anti-torture architecture, torture is still endemic and is often publicized and condoned. The consequences of torture can have a cumulative impact on child and adolescent vulnerability, particularly on those children and adolescents who are most at risk, such as refugee and displaced children and adolescents, children and adolescents affected by armed conflict, child soldiers, children and adolescents in extreme poverty, children and adolescent victims of contemporary forms of slavery and children and adolescents who experience multiple and intersecting grounds of discrimination;

(b) There is growing scientific evidence on the dramatic damage that torture inflicts on children, as well as other physical, psychological, social and developmental challenges, which may have lifelong consequences on a child's future, if rehabilitation and redress are not timely and adequately provided. Holistic, specialized and timely therapeutic interventions help children elaborate and understand the meaning of their traumatic torture experiences;

(c) Trauma resulting from torture is "contagious". Torture transcends the individual victim and affects families and whole communities. Healing and rehabilitation need to take into account that the process of trauma understanding and healing is heavily context-based and culturally embedded;

(d) Strengthening efforts to prevent intergenerational transmission of trauma and building resilience, including by breaking the silence of trauma at the individual and societal levels, is paramount for the prevention of the intergenerational transmission of trauma. Silence from the victims and the society reinforces stigmatization. Making the issue visible will compel public policy response and enable timely and adequate therapeutic support, reparation and justice, which is the basis for ending the intergenerational transmission of trauma;

(e) The need for a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive and victim-tailored approach to rehabilitation. There is no universal model that can be applied to help deal with the trauma that is caused by torture. Assistance to children and adolescents should be flexible and adapted in order to effectively respond to realities on the ground and be possible to be tested in different environments that present a variety of cultural, contextual and socioeconomic dimensions. It should include a gender perspective and be victim-oriented, counting on the participation of the child/adolescent. The best interest of the child should always be a primary consideration;

(f) Bringing international and national actors together. There is a gap to be bridged between the international and national actors working within the child protection framework and those operating towards the eradication of torture. The jurisprudence on torture and children issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee against Torture needs to be further strengthened. Similarly, while there is a wealth of clinical literature regarding other traumas affecting children, there is limited literature regarding children who have endured torture;

(g) Strengthening ties between rehabilitation and redress. Stronger links have to be pursued between the clinical and legal work specifically required to deal with the traumatic experiences of children and adolescents affected by torture. Both areas of work mutually benefit each other. It is also important to translate clinical language into policy terms and using the findings arising from the vast knowledge of child practitioners to advance jurisprudence, particularly at the national level.

13. The panel discussions addressed three main themes, which are summarized below.

"Understanding the challenges: rights and needs of child and adolescent victims of torture"

14. Children and adolescents are already in a situation of vulnerability and the consequences of torture can have a cumulative impact on that vulnerability. The effects of torture on children and adolescents are often further exacerbated owing to their experience with multiple and intersecting grounds of discrimination, such as disability, gender, ethnic origin, nationality and sexual orientation. These factors need to be taken into account in the process of seeking justice, redress and rehabilitation for children and adolescents.

15. The participants underscored that children are victims of torture in various contexts around the world, including during armed conflicts and when in conflict with the law and in detention or custodial settings. In addition to the massive physical and emotional damage on the developing minds and bodies of children and adolescents as a result of torture, the experience of such profound helplessness may fundamentally impair the child's ability to trust, freely develop her or his personality and confidently navigate changing circumstances. Furthermore, if adequate therapeutic support is not provided, unprocessed trauma can lead to the intergenerational transmission of trauma.

16. The discussions emphasized the importance of addressing child trauma early, even in some cases during the first year of the child's existence. Child-sensitive approaches should be used to enable child victims to express themselves, while taking into account the importance of body language.

17. Experts had the opportunity to examine existing gaps and challenges. The jurisprudence of the United Nations treaty-based system deals mainly with prevention of torture without specifically focusing on the experience of child victims of torture. Additionally, the lack of research and documentation on providing redress and rehabilitation to child victims of torture is an obstacle to developing targeted advocacy and policy.

"Walking through the healing process: The rehabilitation journey of child and adolescent victims of torture"

18. The experts highlighted the issue of "resilience" as the ability of the human being to overcome adversity, and they stressed the need for the healing process to begin by helping victims to accept their victimhood and empowering them throughout the healing process.

19. The experts agreed that there is no universal model that can be applied to help deal with the trauma that is caused by torture. Existing models need to be creative and flexible in order to effectively respond to the realities on the ground and to be

tested in different environments that present a variety of cultural, contextual and socioeconomic dimensions. These models need to be child-sensitive and take into account the best interests of the child, the child's evolving capacities and the child's right to freely express her/his own views in all matters affecting her or him. They need also to effectively address specific realities faced by child and adolescent victims of torture, including children and adolescents who have been forced to perpetrate serious crimes, children and adolescents deprived of their liberty and children and adolescents affected by armed conflict, including former child soldiers.

20. The process of healing and rehabilitation for child and adolescent victims of torture requires much more than psychological support and must instead be founded on a comprehensive response that (a) ensures the creation of a safe environment for the victim to develop and articulate her/his narrative: (b) provides the victim with affirmation and reassurance about her/his agency and the sense of wrongdoing that she/he has been subjected to; and (c) focuses on rebuilding and recreating meaningful social relationships for the victim. Expert practitioners in the area of rehabilitation must develop and implement therapeutic tools that foster the resilience of victims by strengthening their competence and autonomy and focusing on the notion of "relatedness".

21. The discussions also highlighted the importance of strengthening the links between rehabilitation and redress. Participants agreed that the pursuit of justice and truth can help the rehabilitation process, whereas their absence may contribute to a "conspiracy of silence" culture wherein affected families and communities avoid talking about experiences of torture. Parents' hidden and unexpressed trauma negatively affects children, as they are likely to nourish fantasies related to their parents' unspoken experiences, which can be very traumatic. Participants also recommended the incorporation, whenever possible, of creative and appropriate legal solutions within the overall rehabilitation process, including by paying particular attention to the rights and needs of children and adolescents.

"Preventing, identifying and treating: the intergenerational transmission of trauma affecting children and adolescents"

22. The experts noted that trauma never exists in a vacuum. It is embedded in one's existence and society. For instance, the children of parents who were tortured may bear the consequences of their parents' trauma and they may in turn eventually transfer that trauma to their own children. Thus, the intergenerational transmission of trauma has the potential to perpetuate the long-term effects of torture in families and society.

23. The experts pointed out that the main pillars of preventing the intergenerational transmission of trauma are memory, justice, redress and therapeutic rehabilitation. Acknowledging the suffering of the victims and restoring the memory of events compels public policy responses and can facilitate integral reparation and justice. Furthermore, providing adequate redress can fulfil the child's need to understand that what was done to them was wrong and demonstrate that there are adults and organizations working to address the harm caused and prevent its recurrence.

24. The participants also emphasized that the silence in relation to trauma can in fact exacerbate the short and long-term consequences of that trauma, specifically to children whose parents are victims of torture. Breaking the silence about the trauma

may facilitate to sensitize societies about the realities of children affected by torture, particularly in societies where silence persists or where the trauma experienced by victims is not recognized.

C. Increased outreach

25. Following the two-day expert workshop, on 8 April, the Board of Trustees convened a public event entitled "How can children survive torture? Lessons learnt on their redress and rehabilitation". The event was open to all Geneva-based State delegations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the media. The panel discussion featured the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, and practitioners from grantee organizations of the Fund. The event was attended by 42 permanent missions, UNICEF, UNHCR, civil society actors and the media, including United Nations Television and United Nations Radio.

26. At the event, the value of redress and rehabilitation as core components in the fight against torture was emphasized, in particular their impact on the individual, the family and society. Experts also spoke of the intergenerational transmission of trauma, which has the potential to perpetuate the long-term effects of torture in families and society, and presented the experiences gathered on the ground on the impact of trauma, as well as the methodologies used to assist victims to overcome it.

III. Coordination with other torture-related United Nations human rights mechanisms

27. In the reporting period, the Board continued to pursue cooperation with other United Nations torture-related mechanisms. Members of the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment were therefore invited by the Board to participate in the expert workshop and the public event mentioned above.

28. On 3 May 2016, Anastasia Pinto, on behalf of the Fund's Board of Trustees, participated in a one-hour meeting with the Committee against Torture at its fifty-seventh session. Annual meetings between the Board of the Fund and the Committee against Torture have become an established practice since the adoption of the Fund's 2014 mission statement that foresees closer relations with all other United Nations anti-torture mechanisms.

IV. United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

29. On 26 June 2016, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was commemorated with a statement issued by the Secretary-General, a video message by the High Commissioner and a joint statement by the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

30. In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that despite its absolute prohibition under international law, the dehumanizing practice of torture remains pervasive and, most disturbingly, is even gaining acceptance. Torture can never be used at any time or under any circumstances, including during conflict or when national security is under threat.

31. The Secretary-General stated that victims of torture had the right to compensation and rehabilitation and reminded States of their obligation under international law to provide redress to victims. When States neglect their obligation to prevent torture, and fail to provide torture victims with effective and prompt redress, compensation and appropriate forms of rehabilitation, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is a lifeline of last resort. The Secretary-General strongly urged States to stand by victims by supporting the Fund and by remaining fully engaged in the fight against torture and impunity.

32. In his video message, the High Commissioner stressed that torture is a severe violation of human rights that can never be justified. Victims of torture come from many walks of life and they are in all countries. They may be human rights defenders, migrants, journalists, persons with disabilities, indigenous people or members of minority groups or people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The High Commissioner expressed his concern about the rising number of children victims of torture and highlighted the vulnerability of child migrants and refugees, particularly those suffering detention at borders.

33. The joint statement issued on the same day by the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture called on States to redouble efforts to prevent the ill-treatment and torture faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex people, particularly in places of deprivation of liberty, including prisons, health-care facilities and immigration detention. The experts highlighted the absence of training to understand the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex people and to avoid their stigmatization in detention. In addition, they stressed the lack of policies and methods to recognize people's self-identified gender, and to carry out proper risk assessments in places of detention. Finally, they called on the States to comply with their obligations under international human rights law and standards such as the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

V. Thirty-fifth anniversary of the Fund

34. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is the oldest and largest Trust Fund managed by OHCHR with a distinct victim-focused mandate. The year 2016 n arks the thirty-fifth anniversary since its establishment by the General Assembly. This anniversary year has provided a timely opportunity to (i) commemorate the Fund's accomplishments to date; (ii) increase awareness of the ongoing threat of torture; (iii) recall the unaddressed needs and rights of thousands of victims of torture in every continent and the duty of States to provide redress and rehabilitation; and (iv) urge renewed support in the form of voluntary contributions from Member States and private donors.

35. Over the last three decades, the Fund has channelled financial assistance of over $168 million to more than 620 organizations worldwide, providing medical, psychological, humanitarian, social and legal assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. In 2016 alone, a total of over 57,000 victims in over 80 countries are expected to be assisted by specialized practitioners from rehabilitation centres, non-governmental organizations and legal aid groups with the critical support of the Fund.

36. To showcase its achievements, a targeted communications campaign was launched, culminating in the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June). Testimonies of both victims and caregivers were collected and shared through short videos and a new publication entitled "From Horror to Healing: A Life-Saving Journey Supported by the UN Fund for Victims of Torture". All material can be viewed at www.ohchr.org/torturefund.

37. On 16 June, a high-level panel discussion entitled "Why we should invest in rehabilitating victims of torture" was held at the United Nations in Geneva to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Fund in the margins of the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council. The event was organized jointly by the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations in Geneva, together with the Permanent Missions of South Africa and Denmark, and with the support of the Fund. The participants in the event recognized that torture and the unaddressed trauma induced by torture may have lifelong consequences in terms of physical, psychological and social development, which are felt beyond the individual by families, communities and society as a whole. They also stressed that supporting victims of torture is not a charity act, but rather a State obligation under international law. However, the burden of rehabilitation is too often placed on civil society organizations.

VI. Financial situation of the Fund

38. In 2015, the Fund received the following voluntary contributions exceeding $9 million (see table below).

Contributions received from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Donor	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Date of receipt*
States		
Andorra	10 928.96	20 August 2015
Argentina	15 000.00	12 November 2015
Austria	28 058.36	1 October 2015
Chile	20 000.00	7 January 2015
Czech Republic	4 045.27	21 December 2015
Denmark	456 760.05	6 February 2015
Finland	220 994.48	21 July 2015
France	54 704.60	31 December 2015
Germany	179 894.18	11 December 2015
Germany	583 244.96	24 March 2015

Donor	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Date of receipt*
Holy See	2 000.00	28 October 2015
India	25 000.00	26 January 2015
Ireland	146 262.19	28 April 2015
Italy	31 746.03	22 June 2016
Kuwait	10 000.00	24 February 2015
Liechtenstein	24 900.40	24 March 2015
Luxembourg	10 834.24	27 April 2015
Mexico	10 000.00	4 November 2015
Morocco	4 000.00	7 January 2015
Netherlands	30 000.00	16 November 2015
Norway	107 226.23	27 April 2015
Oman	5 000.00	4 February 2016
Peru	1 541.66	26 June 2015
South Africa	8 087.63	30 March 2015
United Arab Emirates	10 000.00	20 August 2015
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	508 499.24	24 December 2015
United States of America	6 400 000.00	23 December 2014
United States of America	100 000	Outstanding pledge
Individual donors		
Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten	5 025.00	27 April 2015
Others	319.99	4 January 2016
Total	**9 014 073.47**	

39. The Fund expects to keep the $9 million mark in 2016. However, this figure is still far from the $12 million target, which is estimated by the Board of Trustees as being the threshold that would enable the Fund to meet all demands, including those made in the context of emergency and humanitarian crises.

VII. How to make a contribution to the Fund

40. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. For more information on how to contribute and further details about the Fund, donors are requested to contact the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; e-mail: unvfvt@ohchr.org; telephone: 41 22 917 9624; fax: 41 22 917 9017.

41. Donations can also be made online at http://donatenow.ohchr.org/torture. Information on the Fund can be found at www.ohchr.org/torturefund.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

42. The complexity of contexts and crises in which torture takes place has grown in recent years. Alarmingly, from the data gathered from project proposals being received by the Fund, an increasing number of victims are children and adolescents, who experience directly or indirectly this grave human rights violation with long-term damaging effects on their development, as well as their mental and physical health. The need for redress and rehabilitation has become more pressing and urgent than ever, and should be tailored to the specific needs of child and adolescent victims of torture.

43. In the light of the expert discussions facilitated by the Fund at its forty-third session, the Board notes that:

(a) Immediate, long-term and adequate assistance is essential for the redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture, and especially of child and adolescent victims of torture;

(b) Torture affects the individual, family, community and society, and its dehumanizing effects transcend generations;

(c) Breaking the silence of trauma at the individual and societal levels is paramount for the prevention of intergenerational transmission of trauma;

(d) Redress and full rehabilitation of victims require a multi-disciplinary approach and coordination among all relevant actors that incorporates, whenever possible, creative and appropriate legal solutions, including by paying particular attention to the rights and needs of children and adolescents;

(e) Rehabilitation and redress are heavily context-based and culturally embedded and require the elaboration and the implementation of flexible and adaptable approaches and models;

(f) Expert clinical language on rehabilitation needs to be translated into policy, and the findings arising from the vast knowledge of child practitioners need to be used to advance jurisprudence at the national and international levels.

44. As recalled by the Secretary-General in his statement of 26 June 2016, the Fund is a lifeline of last resort when States neglect their obligation to prevent torture and fail to provide torture victims with effective and prompt redress, compensation and appropriate forms of rehabilitation.

45. Marking its thirty-fifth year of operation, the Fund and the centres it sponsors in all regions of the world are also a repository of knowledge in the field of redress and rehabilitation of victims of torture. The Fund convenes yearly expert workshops aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices.

46. The Board estimates that the Fund would need to receive $12 million on a yearly basis in order to respond adequately to the ever-increasing demands for assistance, in particular in the face of today's large-scale human rights crises and conflicts.

47. The Secretary-General appeals to Member States and other stakeholders to contribute to the Fund, and stresses that contributing to the Fund is a concrete manifestation of the commitment of States towards the elimination of torture, in line with the Convention against Torture, in particular article 14 thereof.

Annex

List of participants in the two-day expert workshop on redress and rehabilitation of children and adolescent victims of torture and the intergeneration of trauma, held on 6 and 7 April 2016

Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund

Gaby Oré Aguilar (Chairperson)

Mikolaj Pietzrak

Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça

Anastasia Pinto

Morad el-Shazly

Invited experts

Jorge Barudy, Director, EXIL, Spain

Anette Carnemalm, Head of the Treatment Center for Persons Affected by War and Torture in Malmö, Swedish Red Cross, Sweden

Gaëlle Carayon, Post-Conflict Policy Advisor, REDRESS, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sophia Combrink, Clinical Manager, Centre for the Study of Reconciliation and Violence (CSVR), South Africa

Maricela Escamilla, Psychologist, Ciudadanos en Apoyo a los Derechos Humanos (CADHAC), Mexico

Sana Hamzeh, Psychotherapist, Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture (RESTART), Lebanon

Maria Książak, Coordinator, International Humanitarian Initiative Foundation, Poland

Piya Muqit, Executive Director, Justice Centre Hong Kong

Dieynaba Ndoye, Coordinator, Centre Africain pour la Prévention et la Résolution des Conflits (CAPREC), Senegal

Paul Orieny, Clinical Advisor for Mental Health, The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), United States of America

Berenise Quattoni, Clinical Psychologist, Association Mana, France

Diego Rodríguez Mendieta, Clinical Director, Heartland Alliance International, Colombia

Ann Salter, Psychotherapist, Freedom from Torture, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Susannah Sirkin, Director of International Policy and Partnerships/Senior Advisor, Physicians for Human Rights, United States of America

Areeje Semreen, Clinical Psychologist, Institute for Family Health (IFH), Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Jordan

Lela Tsiskarishvili, Executive Director, Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (GCRT), Georgia

Maudi Tzay Patal, Facilitator, Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial (ECAP), Guatemala

Other participants

Alessio Bruni, Vice-Chairperson, Committee against Torture

Benyam Dawit Mezmur, Chairperson, Committee on the Rights of the Child

Martin Babu Mwesigwa, Rapporteur, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Suzanne Jabbour, Vice-Chairperson, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.